

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani
Dave Aylesworth

DATE: April 21, 2000

RE: Utilization of Chemotherapy in
Adult Mental Health Outpatient Programs: 1995-1999

This week's PIP is the second in a series on services provided by mental health programs in Vermont. Following on last week's examination of the rate at which chemotherapy services were provided by Children's Services Programs, this week's PIP provides the same information for Adult Mental Health Outpatient programs. Specifically, the attached tables and graphs report the number and the proportion of the people served by Adult Outpatient Programs in Vermont who received chemotherapy services from each community agency. As described last week, chemotherapy services include both the prescription by a physician or qualified nurse of psychoactive drugs to favorably influence or prevent mental illness and the monitoring and assessment of patient reaction to prescribed drugs. Chemotherapy sessions tend to average about 30 minutes in duration.

As you will see, people served by Adult Outpatient Programs were much more likely to receive chemotherapy services than young people served by Children's Services Programs (35% vs. 13% for 1999). There was also less change in the rate at which Adult Outpatient Programs provided chemotherapy services during this reporting period than there was for the Children's Services programs.

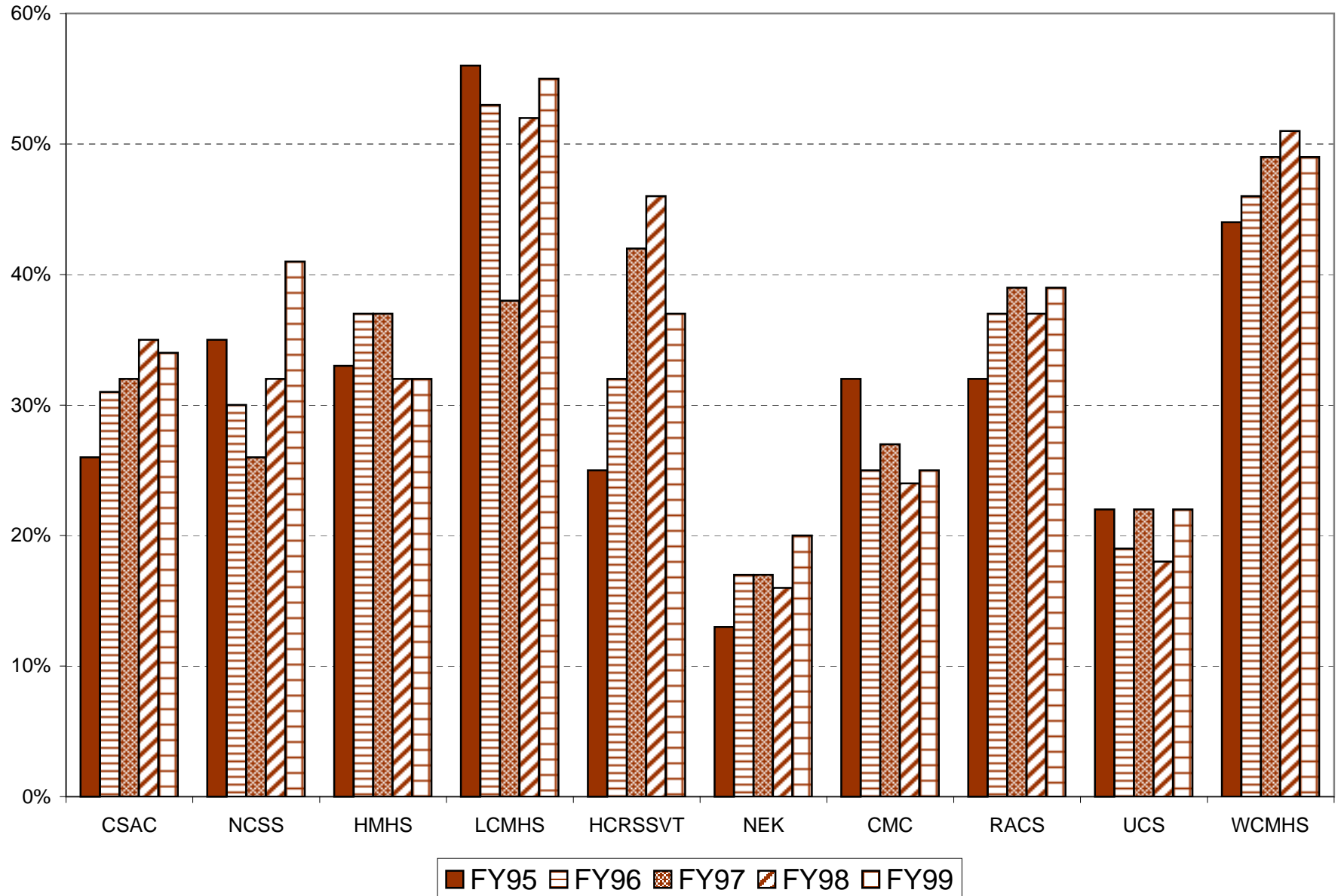
There were, however, substantial differences among providers in the proportion of Adult Outpatient clients who received psychotropic medication under the auspices of the Adult Mental Health Outpatient program during 1995 through 1999. This proportion regularly approached or exceeds 50% for Lamoille and Washington Counties during this period. At Northeast Kingdom and United Counseling Service, on the other hand, the proportion

of Adult Outpatient Clients who received psychotropic medication never reached 25% during this period.

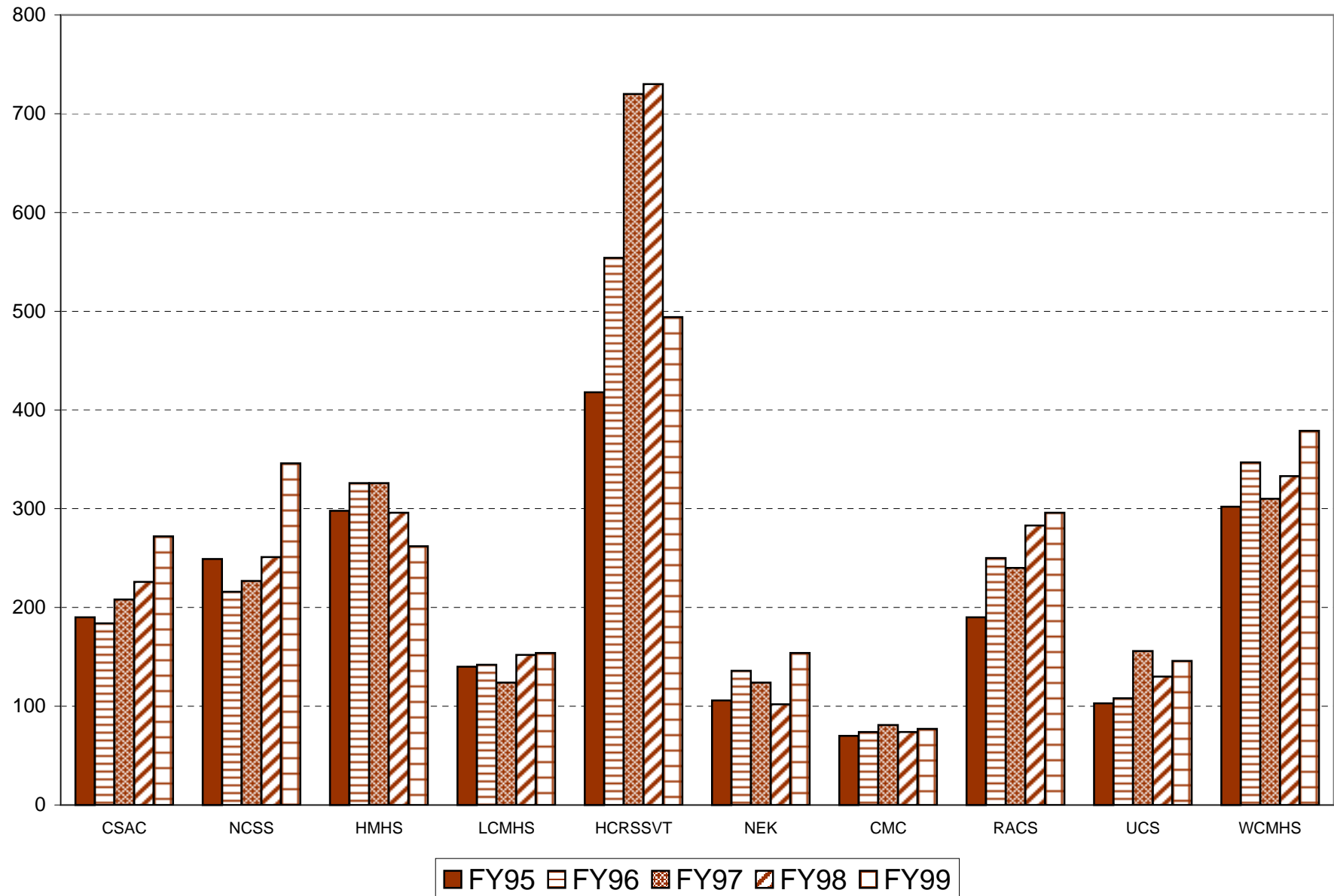
We will be interested in your thoughts and questions about the information on chemotherapy services that we are distributing this week. Last week's information on the provision of chemotherapy services in Children Services Programs prompted questions from readers about the demographic characteristics of recipients of chemotherapy services and the types of medication that were prescribed. We are beginning to pull together information that will help us respond to these questions.

Again, we will appreciate your comments about the accuracy and completeness of the data presented this week. We are also interested in your thoughts about variation in rates among providers. Please give us a call (802-241-2638) or send an email (jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us) with your thoughts, questions, and suggestions.

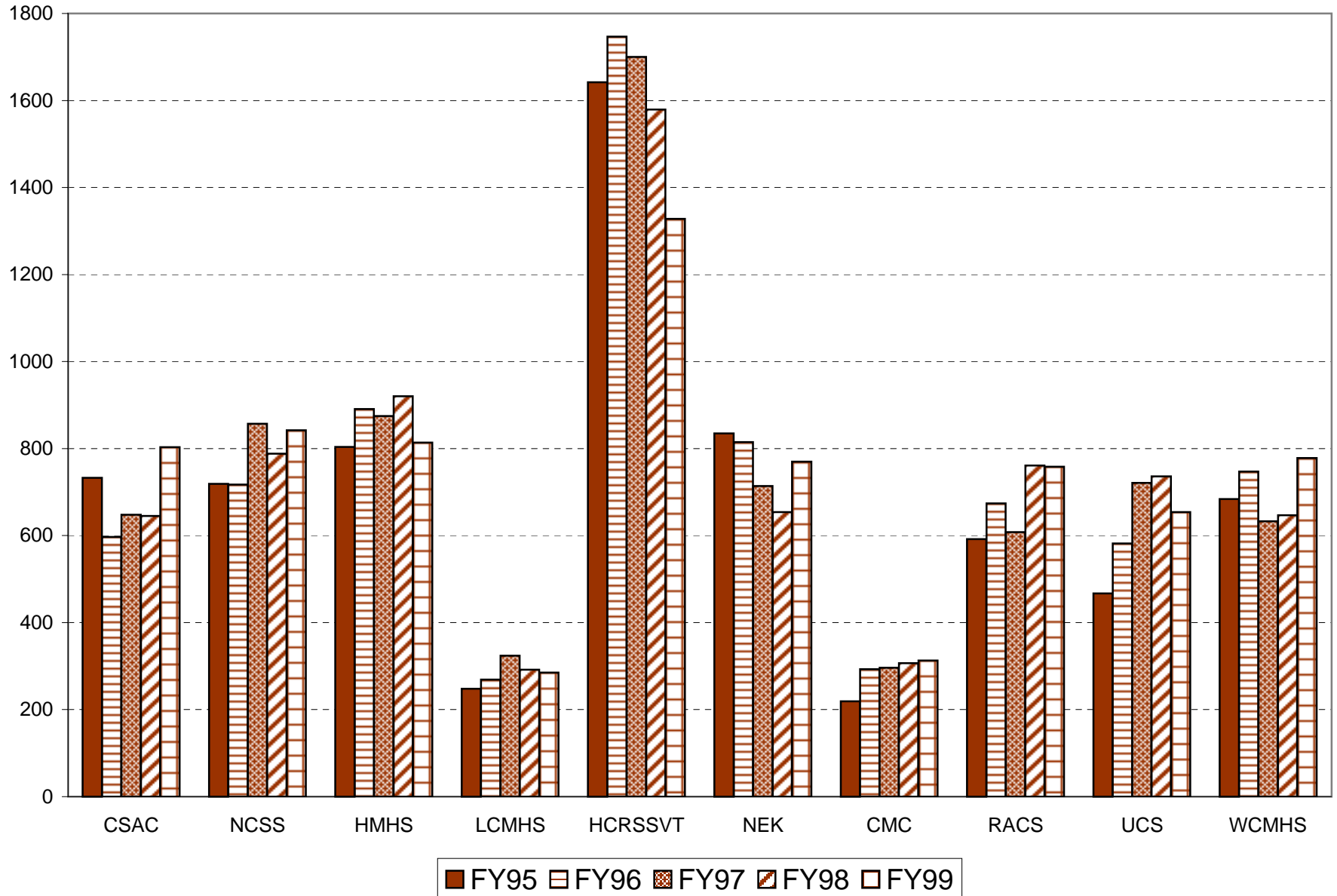
**PERCENT OF CLIENTS RECEIVING CHEMOTHERAPY
ADULT MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS:FY95-FY99**



NUMBER OF CLIENTS RECEIVING CHEMOTHERAPY ADULT MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS:FY95-FY99



**TOTAL NUMBER OF CLIENTS RECEIVING OUTPATIENT SERVICES
ADULT MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS:FY95-FY99**



UTILIZATION OF CHEMOTHERAPY IN ADULT MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

	Total Clients Receiving Outpatient Services					Number of Clients Receiving Chemotherapy					Percent of Clients Receiving Chemotherapy				
	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99
CSAC (Addison)	733	597	648	645	803	190	184	208	226	272	26%	31%	32%	35%	34%
NCSS (Franklin)	719	717	857	788	842	249	216	227	251	346	35%	30%	26%	32%	41%
HMHS (Chittenden)	904	891	875	920	814	298	326	326	296	262	33%	37%	37%	32%	32%
LCMHS (Lamoille)	248	269	324	292	285	140	142	124	152	154	56%	53%	38%	52%	55%
HCRSSVT (Southeast)	1,642	1,747	1,700	1,579	1,328	418	554	720	730	494	25%	32%	42%	46%	37%
NEK (Northeast)	835	815	714	654	770	106	136	124	102	154	13%	17%	17%	16%	20%
CMC (Orange)	219	293	296	307	313	70	74	81	74	77	32%	25%	27%	24%	25%
RACS (Rutland)	592	674	608	761	758	190	250	240	283	296	32%	37%	39%	37%	39%
UCS (Bennington)	467	582	721	736	654	103	108	156	130	146	22%	19%	22%	18%	22%
WCMHS (Washington)	684	747	633	647	778	302	347	310	333	379	44%	46%	49%	51%	49%
TOTAL	7,043	7,332	7,376	7,329	7,345	2,066	2,337	2,516	2,577	2,580	29%	32%	34%	35%	35%